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ABSTRACT

In fall 1991, a steering committee originally consisting of six senior citizens from the rural Last Mountain area of Saskatchewan coordinated the development of three extension courses designed primarily for senior citizens. The courses, which were in creative writing, computers, and the history of Saskatchewan, were developed under a grant and offered as "trial balloons" to determine whether extension courses designed primarily for senior citizens would be popular in the rural area. The courses filled within the first week of registration. Seventy-five percent of the enrollees were senior citizens. In view of the courses' popularity, four additional courses (in prairie gardening, drawing in color, computers, and the literature of Saskatchewan) were offered in spring 1992. Evaluations completed by course participants indicated that the participants were challenged and very pleased by the content of all four courses, and the program has proved a valuable learning experience for all involved. The fall 1991 program served 56 individuals (47 over age 50) at a total direct cost of $1,196.80, and the spring 1992 program served 65 individuals (45 over age 50) at a total direct cost of $2,178.57. (Evaluation summaries for all seven courses are included.) (MN)

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ED 366 737

# Seniors' Education Centre

## LAST MOUNTAIN LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR OLDER ADULTS AND OTHERS

## 1991-92 REPORT

## APRIL 30,1992

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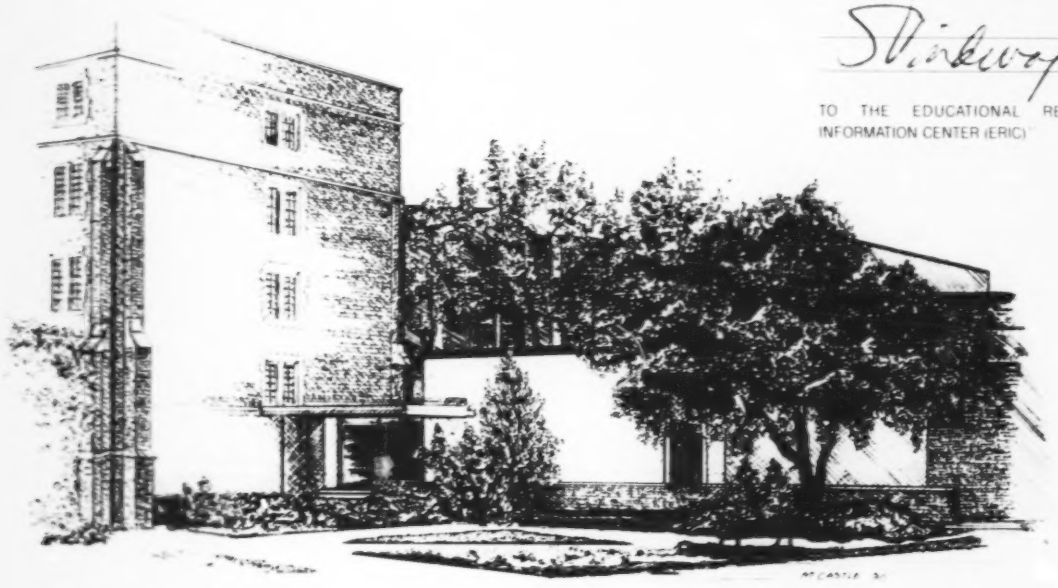

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# LAST MOUNTAIN LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR OLDER ADULTS AND OTHERS

## 1991-92 REPORT

APRIL 30,1992

"This has been the best winter of my life - between the writing classes and the drawing class - it's been just great!" - Course Participant, Creative Writing, Fall '91

"I just decided this was something I wanted to do - you know when you grow older you want to pursue some of the things that you've just dabbled in all your life. I'm really glad I did." - Course Participant, Drawing in Color, Spring '92

"I'd like to see more computer classes to build on the skills I've developed". - Participant, Introduction to Computers- Level II, Spring '92

**HISTORY:**

The Last Mountain Steering Committee was formed in June, 1991 at a meeting attended by John Oussoren and Diane Mullan of the Seniors' Education Centre, University Extension, University of Regina. The group initially consisted of six seniors from four communities including Nokomis, Govan, Semans, and Raymore. Gordon MacMurchy, former Chairperson of the Lanigan Home Care Board, had requested that the Seniors' Education Centre consider the development of learning opportunities for and with older adults in the Last Mountain area. The Seniors' Education Centre had received funding from Sask Trust via the Saskatchewan Seniors Mechanism and the Saskatchewan Seniors Education Corporation.

The steering committee was interested in having "something for the mind" for seniors in their area. However, they felt uncertain whether other seniors would be interested in participating in learning opportunities offered through the Seniors' Education Centre. The committee identified possible barriers to the success of the programs as travelling distances between communities for classes, busy schedules, and for some, a reluctance to try something new. They decided to offer three older adult education courses as a "trial balloon" based on their impression of programs that would be popular and on suggestions from other seniors in the community.

**FALL '91 PROGRAMS:**

**Creative Writing** was held at Raymore Library with instructor, Susan Swedberg-Kohli, a journalist from Regina. The 6 week course had 14 adult participants, 11 of whom were over 60 years of age and generated in $180.00 in fees. *The class participants continued as an independent writer's group in the Last Mountain area, and would like to have future courses in creative writing.*

**Introduction to Computers** was offered at Nokomis School.

With permission of the principal, Wayne Busch, the course participants had access to six IBM computers. Murray Wall, the high school computer teacher, instructed seven sessions. The course was comprised of 12 adults, 9 of whom were over 60 years of age. Revenue from the class was $140.00. The participants expressed an interest in having a second level beginners course to build on the basic skills they had developed.

**Two Saskatchewan History Lectures** with Dr. John Archer (historian, retired university professor and former president of the University of Regina) were held at Semans Golden Hours Club and at Govan and District Seniors' Association. A total of 30 older adults attended, 27 of whom were over 60 years of age. $210.00 in course fees were collected.

The intention of the Last Mountain Steering Committee was to involve the existing seniors' groups and other public facilities in the project in order to develop a broad community base of older adults and others. The idea of developing learning opportunities for and with seniors in the rural communities struck a cord with old and young alike. The courses filled within the first week of registration, with a waiting list of six people for **Introduction to Computers.** Courses were open to all adults, with priority given to seniors. Seventy-five percent of registrants were seniors (55 and over).
The fall '91 course fees were intentionally set very low to include seniors on fixed incomes, at $10.00 for seniors, $20.00 for non-seniors. Tuition recovered from each class helped to off-set the costs of the programs. Saskatchewan History brought in $210.00, Creative Writing-- $180.00, and Intro to Computers - $140.00 for a total cost-recovery of $530.00.

**SPRING '92 PROGRAMS:**

**Prairie Gardening** was instructed by horticulturist Charmaine Neufeld from the City of Regina. Four drop-in sessions were held in each of the four participating communities, beginning on March 5 with **Get Ready For Spring!** - Starting seeds indoors, transplanting and garden preparation. The session was held at Govan and District Seniors' Assoc., with five people in attendance. On the evening of March 12 **Floral Garden Design** with annuals and perennials was presented at Raymore Golden Hours Club. Six people attended. On March 19 in Semans **Organic Gardening** covered Companion planting, composting and organic control of common weeds. Eleven people attended. On March 26 **Special Gardens** including herb, rock and raised bed gardens drew the largest crowd of 19 participants at Nokomis Seniors' Drop-in Centre. Participants came from as far as Bulyea, Strasbourg and Duval. The total number of participants was 32. 60 % of

the participants over 55 years of age. The total revenue generated from the course was $164.00

The evaluations from this class revealed that the instructor could have been more informed and more prepared for the Organic Gardening and Special Gardens sessions in particular. Some of the participants felt that they had more hands-on gardening experience than the instructor. More visual aides such as slide presentations and hand -outs on detailed information were suggestions made in the evaluations by participants. Suggestions were made to invite Ken Beattie or Stan Sheard - both of whom had been approached by the project coordinator and had declined. Further research might of been done to check the qualifications of this instructor. Earlier feedback from the volunteer facilitators of the lectures might have been helpful to the project coordinator, as the instructor could have been encouraged to be more creative in her approach for the remaining sessions. According to the volunteer facilitators for the first two sessions, however, the instructor was adequately prepared and participants were satisfied.

Martha Cole was the instructor for 6 sessions of **Drawing in Color.** She has 20 years experience as an artist and teacher of art. The course was held on Wednesdays, March 4 -April 8 6 wks. from 1:00 - 3:30 p.m. Raymore United Church Hall was available to us for $15/session. The course fee was $12.50 seniors (age 50+); $25.00 other adults, with a Course limit of 20. Of the 10 participants, five were seniors. The total revenue from course fees was $187.50.

Feedback from the participants was very positive. Many of them indicated they would like more art classes in drawing, watercolor, oils or calligraphy. In particular, the participants appreciated the information on colour theory and the variety of techniques demonstrated by the instructor. All participants felt that the course could have been longer and the individual sessions could have been 3 rather than 2.5 hours. The instructor found that travelling was taxing on her time and had the following suggestions: 1) Hold two art courses in different subject areas e.g. drawing and calligraphy of the same day of the week for eight weeks. 2) Pay for travel time (perhaps $15/hour) to make the trip worthwhile for instructor. 3) Hold a 2 day intensive workshop mid-week in one specific subject area. It was difficult to find adequate facilities for this course which met with the requirements of window light, size and table and chairs. Although previously all facilities had been made available to the Last Mountain courses free of charge, the project coordinator finally agreed to pay $15.00 per session at the United Church Hall in Raymore.

**Introduction to Computers - Level II** was offered as a continuation of the Fall session. The principal of Nokomis School, Mr. Wayne Busch, granted us free use of the facility. Although the number of participants was smaller, this was beneficial as the school has only 6 computers. Each participant had more hand-on experience and more individualized instruction. The instructor was Murray Wall who is a high school computer teacher, and had taught the fall sessions with much success.

Again the course was held on Mondays and Wednesdays, March 16 - April 8 (4 wks.) from 3:30 - 5:30 p.m. at Nokomis School. The fee was $12.50 seniors (age 50+); $25.00 other adults. The course limit was 12. Of the total number of participants 6 were seniors and were 2 non-seniors. Total revenue from fees was $125.00.

Evaluations and informal feedback to the project coordinator were very positive. Participants had gained more skills and knowledge in the areas of accounting and word processing programs. Some felt ready to take a more advanced course through the community college in a specific area such as word perfect. The instructor is prepared to teach more beginning level classes, however he indicated to the class and the project coordinator that a more advanced level in a particular program would be best pursued at the community college level. A local senior was suggested as a potential instructor for a more advanced accounting course. The project coordinator will pursue these options with the Last Mountain Seniors' Education Committee.

**Introduction to the Literature of Saskatchewan** was instructed by Brenda Riches, a poet and sessional lecturer at the University of Regina English Department. Four sessions were offered in each of the participating communities. On April 2 in Semans, Brenda Riches read and reflected on the influences in her own work as a writer in Saskatchewan. On April 9 in Govan, Brenda looked at the novels of W.O. Mitchell and Sharon Butala, writers who set their work on the Saskatchewan prairie. On April 16, in Semans, participants were invited to explore the short stories of Bonnie Burnard, Connie Gault and the poetry of Marie Annehart Baker. Finally in Govan on April 23, Craig Grant, novelist and editor of Windscript magazine replaced Brenda Riches who had undergone surgery on April 21. Craig provided a glance at some of Saskatchewan's most promising young writers who have been published in *Windscript*.
Pre-registration for the four sessions was $12.50 for, or $4.00/session on a drop-in basis.

Evaluations revealed that the participants were challenged by the course content and the discussion facilitated by the two instructors. Several participants indicated that they were both surprised and pleased by the great wealth of

writers in Saskatchewan.
Please see the attached 1991-92 program evaluation summary for more detailed breakdown of courses.

**REGISTRATION POLICY:**

The courses offered through the Seniors' Education Centre in the Last Mountain area were open to adults of all ages. Priority registration was given to those who are 50 years of age and over.

**PROMOTION:**

The fall and spring programs were promoted in cooperation with the University Extension Communications Office. Press releases were sent to all forms of media, including radio, television and newspapers in the Last Mountain area. Flyers were designed and printed with the assistance of University of Regina duplicating services. The project paid for a small block advertisement in each of the two weekly papers, both sessions, supplemented by an article written by the project coordinator. Articles about the courses were written intermittently by the committee and course participants, and were published in the local weeklies and the Saskatchewan Senior.

The steering committee distributed the flyer for both the fall and spring sessions. A mail drop was done at each of the participating towns, so that each household in the area received a flyer. The committee members also posted flyers in public places in each of their towns, i.e. at the co-op, on bulletin boards, at the seniors centres. Since the best form of advertising seemed to be through word-of-mouth, the committee members were encouraged to "talk up" the courses to family, friends and neighbours.

**COMMITTEE DEVELOPMENT:**

Although there were changes in the members of the committee throughout the program year, a strong group of ten older adults, eight of whom are 55 or over has been maintained. Jessie Cameron of Raymore has resigned from the committee as she is recovering from surgery. Clarence Cantrill of Raymore resigned in December as he felt he did not have time to be active on the committee. We were joined by four active new members - Lillian Rediger and Ruth Buitenhuis from Raymore; Jean King of Nokomis and Norman McKay of Govan. Lillian and Ruth had been encouraged by Jessie to join, and then invited formally by the project coordinator. Both attended the popular Creative Writing class in the fall. Jean King brought new areas of interest and good energy to the committee. Norman McKay, who had participated

in the Creative Writing course, indicated through the evaluation form that he would like to be involved, and was invited by Gordon MacMurchy. All of the committee members have developed a sense of commitment and ownership of the direction of the group over the past nine months.

The committee was responsible for three main areas: 1) planning and organizing the learning opportunities based on their information and understanding of which courses, instructors and facilities would be most suitable in the Last Mountain area. They advised the project coordinator to research the availability of the preferred instructors and facilities. 2) Promoting the courses through distribution of flyers, newspaper articles and word-of-mouth as described in the promotion section. 3) Volunteer facilitating the courses which involved responsibility for the facility, the fees, introducing the instructor and assisting with the evaluations. It was important that the volunteer facilitator communicate to the project coordinator any problems related to the instructor, the facility, or the course content.

The Last Mountain Seniors' Education Committee met on the average of once per month throughout the two sessions. Minutes were recorded and distributed by the project coordinator, along with other relevant information. The committee developed the application to New Horizons with the project coordinator. Plans to do outreach to surrounding communities in the areas are being discussed.

In December of 1991, the Last Mountain Project Steering Committee applied to New Horizons for funding to continue as a group to offer educational programs for and with older adults in the Last Mountain area. Approval for the funding was received at the beginning of April '92. The grant will be used to strengthen its community presence and to further develop its self-sufficiency skills as an older adult education unit. The Fall '91 and Spring '92 sessions served as a training period and learning experience for steering committee members and the project coordinator. It is anticipated that the group will continue to learn and strengthen throughout the Fall '92, Spring '93 and Fall '93 sessions.

On April 22, the Last Mountain Seniors' Education Committee met to evaluate the spring session and to determine how to carry on within New Horizons guidelines. The committee asked the project coordinator to draft a proposal for continuing contract services and consulting fees with the Seniors' Education Centre at the University of Regina over the eighteen month period funded by New Horizons. Other sources of funding will be pursued by the committee to cover the $2500. shortfall to the 18 month budget.

The Last Mountain Committee members want to continue the rural outreach effort initiated by the Seniors' Education Centre in their geographic area. They intend a) to develop their skills as an older adult education group, and b) to eventually reach beyond the four communities presently involved, to respond, in part, to the learning needs of older adults in other neighbouring communities.

To this end a "Getting to know you" Gathering will be held in June, 1992. The purpose of the gathering will be to celebrate and discover the work of the Last Mountain Seniors' Education Committee. Norma Wallace and Doug Sutherland of New Horizons and the area Member of Parliament will be invited to make a public announcement of the approval for funding of the program. Past course participants and guests will be invited to bring samples of their artwork, creative writing and computer wizardry. The gathering will provide an opportunity for the community to have input into the fall program. A sub-committee has been formed to carry out this venture.

**CONCLUSION**

While the initial meetings with the Last Mountain Steering Committee were uncertain in direction and commitment, group ownership of the project has grown over the past nine months. While considerable research and organizing was initially done by the coordinator, the committee has willingly taken on a more active role in shaping the learning opportunities for older adults in the Last Mountain area. The project coordinator has developed effective means of organizing and implementing courses for and with older adults in a rural area from a urban university base. The effort has been successful due to the direction and assistance of the Last Mountain Committee and with the help of resource people at the University of Regina, Seniors' Education Centre. It has been a valuable learning experience for all.

The Last Mountain Seniors' Education Committee recognizes the importance of making continuing education accessible to older adults, including those who have not had the opportunity of a formal education, and/or whose functional literacy skills are minimal. By bringing educational programs to the rural areas and working with other local seniors to create courses suited to their needs, the barriers of distance, age, income and lack of past educational opportunities can be overcome. The Last Mountain Seniors' Education Committee, in this way will continue to work towards the enhancement of rural life for and with all older adults.

**LAST MOUNTAIN LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR AND WITH OLDER ADULTS AND OTHERS**
**1991-92 PROGRAM SUMMARY OVERVIEW**

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**FALL '91 PROGRAMS:**

Creative Writing - 14 registrants
11 over 50 years of age
Total revenue: $180.00
Total direct cost: $746.80

Saskatchewan History - 30 registrants
27 over 50 years of age
Total revenue: $210.00
Total direct cost: $100.00

Introduction to Computers - 12 registrants
9 over 50 years of age
Total revenue: $140.00
Total direct cost: $350.00

**TOTAL REGISTRANTS FALL PROGRAM - 56 - (47 OVER AGE 50)**
**TOTAL REVENUE FROM FALL PROGRAM: $530.00**
**TOTAL DIRECT COST OF FALL PROGRAM: 1196.80**

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**SPRING '92 PROGRAMS:**

Prairie Gardening - 33 registrants
Total revenue: $164.00
Total direct cost: $443.82

Drawing in Color - 10 registrants
5 over 50 years of age
Total revenue: $187.50
Total direct cost: 852.75

Introduction to Computers - Level II - 8 registrants
6 over 50 yrs of age
Total revenue: $125.00
Total direct cost: $400.00

Introduction to the Literature of Saskatchewan
14 registrants (all over 50)
Total revenue: $121.50
Total direct cost: $482.00

**TOTAL REGISTRANTS SPRING PROGRAM: 65 (45 OVER AGE 50)**
**TOTAL REVENUE SPRING PROGRAM: $598.00**
**TOTAL DIRECT COST OF SPRING PROGRAM: $2178.57**

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**1991-92 PROGRAM YEAR TOTALS**
**REGISTRANTS: 121 (92 OVER 50 YEARS OF AGE)**
**REVENUE: 1128.50 TOTAL DIRECT COST: $3375.37**

**EVALUATION SUMMARY**

**LAST MOUNTAIN CREATIVE WRITING CLASS FALL '91**

**INSTRUCTOR - SUSAN SWEDBERG-KOHLI LOCATION: RAYMORE LIBRARY**

18 HOURS: OCTOBER 18 - NOVEMBER 22, 1991

REGISTRANTS: 14 people 11 over 60 years of age
9 Raymore 1 Semans 3 Nokomis 1 Govan

1. What three things did you enjoy the most?

- Writing stories on assigned topics
- Hearing others stories
- Critiques
- Relaxed atmosphere
- Fellowship
- Instructor

2. What three things did you enjoy the least?

- Re-writing
- Reading own work
- Not enough time
- Not quite enough room

3. How did you hear about the class?

- Mail-out (6)
- Newspaper (2)
- Word of mouth (5)
- Other lectures (1)

4. Other comments or concerns?

- The class became more exciting and enlightening with every meeting.
- The class more than fulfilled my expectations.
- A fantastic all-around experience!
- Forever learning.
- My spark for writing has become a flame.
- We should record our own history.
- The whole experience was wonderful.

The class is continuing to meet as an independent writer's group.

**EVALUATION SUMMARY**

**LAST MOUNTAIN INTRODUCTION TO COMPUTERS FALL '91**

**INSTRUCTOR: MURRAY WALL LOCATION: NOKOMIS SCHOOL**

**14 HOURS: NOVEMBER 4 - 27, 1991**

**REGISTRANTS: 12 people 9 over 60**
**10 Nokomis 1 Semans 1 Lockwood**

1. What three things did you enjoy the most?

   - Learning basic, practical skills, hands-on
   - Patience and helpfulness of the instructor
   - Learning together in a relaxed atmosphere
   - Overcoming my fear of the computer
   - Accounting program, Quicken program

2. What three things did you least enjoy?

   - Only one computer per person

3. Do you have any suggestions for improvement?

   - Longer class - more time to practice skills
   - 1 person per computer
   - Practice time outside of class - with instructor available but not in room

4. Would you like to see more classes in computer skills?

   - Accounting/Bookkeeping
   - Advance class to build on basic skills

5. How did you hear about the class?

   - Mail-out (8)
   - Newspaper (5)
   - Word of mouth (3)

6. Other comments or concerns?

   - Enjoyed class immensely, time passed too quickly.
   - Excellent course.
   - No longer feel like an idiot about the computer
   - Murray was an excellent teacher- easy going and helpful.
   - Encourage more funding for classes like this.

**EVALUATION SUMMARY**

**LAST MOUNTAIN SASKATCHEWAN HISTORY LECTURES FALL '91**

**INSTRUCTOR: DR. JOHN ARCHER** **LOCATION: SEMANS AND GOVAN SENIORS' DROP-IN CENTRES**

4 HOURS: OCTOBER 17 AND 24, 1991

**PARTICIPANTS: Semans: 20 people**
**14 Semans 4 Nokomis, 2 Govan**
**Govan: 22 people**
**10 Govan 7 Semans 5 Nokomis**
**Total ( no overlap ) 30 people 27 over 60**

1. What did you enjoy the most about the presentation?

   - Learning new points about history
   - Information and humour
   - The speaker
   - Anecdotes and storytelling

2. Suggestions for improvement?

   - Time for questions half-way through lecture.

3. How did you hear about the lecture?

   - Mail-out (5)
   - Newspaper (5)
   - Word of mouth (5)

EVALUATION SUMMARY

LAST MOUNTAIN INTRODUCTION TO COMPUTERS
- LEVEL II SPRING '92

INSTRUCTOR: MURRAY WALL LOCATION: NOKOMIS SCHOOL

16 HOURS: MARCH 16 - APRIL 8, 1992

REGISTRANTS: 8 people 6 over 60
6 from Nokomis 1 Semans 1 Lockwood

1. What did you enjoy the most about the course?

- Word Perfect and Accounting
- Spread sheets
- Small class so lot of individual time with instructor
- Instructor was excellent and covered work at a reasonable pace
- the presentation of easy learning/hand-on experience
- the relaxed atmosphere
- no pressure
- two hours was just right

2. What did you least enjoy about the course?

- Trying to remember to commands
- I needed more time to make notes and refer to them

3. As a whole, the information presented in this course was:

__8__Very helpful _____Somewhat helpful
_____Not very helpful

4. The instructor was able to convey his/her knowledge:

__8__Very well _____Adequately _____Not very well

5. The most important thing I learned in this class was:

- accounting skills
- just how complex the computer is
- time saving aspects of the computer
- projections
- good overview of different programs
- it was all good and valuable
- how to apply the info to my home computer
- extent of computer programming

- feeling comfortable with a computer

6. My suggestions for improving the learning in this course would be:

- staying within one phase versus covering a broader spectrum
- more time (several participants indicated this)

7. Other courses or lecture topics I would like to see offered in the Last Mountain area are:

- woodworking (two participants suggested this)
- gardening with a qualified instructor
- typing

8. Would you like to become involved in organizing future classes with the Last Mountain Seniors' Education Committee?

- Shirley Smith - 528-4448 Nokomis
- Dorothy Pomfret - Box 40 Lockwood (occasionally)

Other comments or concerns:

- I really enjoyed this class and may enroll in something else!
- Enjoyed it very much - thanks!
- Murray Wall was a great teacher with patience you wouldn't believe.
- I think Murray was a very capable instructor. It is very difficult for people like myself who don't have a computer, but he was very patient.

**EVALUATION SUMMARY**

**DRAWING IN COLOR SPRING '92**

**INSTRUCTOR: MARTHA COLE**

**LOCATION: RAYMORE UNITED CHURCH HALL**

**15 HOURS: MARCH 4 - APRIL 8, 1992**

**REGISTRANTS: 10 people (5 over 55)**

**3 from Raymore**
**4 from Semans**
**2 from Nokomis**
**1 from Cymric**

1. What did you enjoy the most about the course?

- the chance to draw
- colour theory
- the challenge of drawing
- everything
- learning a new medium
- all of it, learning about using the pencil crayons
- different techniques
- learning about colours and blending them
- the whole course was exciting!

2. What did you least enjoy about the course?

- the time passed too quickly
- it wasn't long enough

3. As a whole, the information presented in this course was:

__10_Very helpful _____Somewhat helpful
_____Not very helpful

4. The instructor was able to convey his/her knowledge:

__10__Very well ____Adequately _____Not very well

5. The most important thing I learned in this class was:

- how to blend the colors and get the depth to the subject
- shading and coloring methods
- I can draw! This class helped to develop my confidence in my abilities
- that colours can be mixed and come out looking great
- construction paper drawing
- it improved my abilities to draw and think in colour

6. My suggestions for improving the learning in this course would be:

- make it longer
- longer hours
- none! it was great!
- to see a sample of what we are expected to do

7. Other courses or lecture topics I would like to see offered in the Last Mountain area are:

- anything to do with art
- Saskatchewan history
- 18th & 19th century literature & poetry or Shakespeare!!!
- calligraphy
- more drawing instruction (several)
- sculpture, pastels, fabric painting
- charcoal drawing, painting in oil or watercolors
- toastmasters (2 participants)
- oil painting (several)
- watercolor (several)

8. Other comments or concerns:

- Have thoroughly enjoyed this class
- This class is just super. So convenient for me. I hope it continues in the fall.
- Keep it up! These classes are great!
- A great class!

**EVALUATION SUMMARY**

**PRAIRIE GARDENING SPRING '92**

**INSTRUCTOR CHARMAINE NEUFELDT**

**LOCATION: GOVAN, RAYMORE, SEMANS AND NOKOMIS DROP-IN CENTRES**

**6 HOURS: MARCH 5, 12, 19 & 26, 1992**

1. What did you enjoy the most about the presentation this evening?

- informal atmosphere
- rock gardens
- herb gardens
- instructor was pleasant
- instructor, information, coffee time
- instructor, information given, comradeship
- questions form others
- informal discussion
- looking at the references
- garden design

2. What did you enjoy the least?

- could have been more informative
- very superficial and sketchy content for me, instructor tended to read from her notes

3. Do you have any comments or suggestions for improvement of the time, location, course content, or instructor?

- the instructor was a little vague and inexperienced
- didn't learn anything as I'm an experienced gardener and I've built many rock gardens myself
- all sessions in one night might be better
- I wondered just how much real gardening the instructor had done. The ladies present have years of experience and I don't feel we got much useful info for our money tonight
- it's nicer to have tables to write on
- hand-out materials would be useful
- could have been slides, or large scale photos might help in the explanation of things. Also reading hand-out are always nice
- the course content was very basic, could be more detailed - not enough explanations or hand-outs
- would be nice to see more diagrams and pictures with regards to flower beds and rock gardens

4. Would you like to see more classes offered in Prairie gardening?

- absolutely
- yes (several)
- Yes - any old timers who would be willing to teach us their "tricks" would be welcome too
- Yes - next year
- Yes more information is always helpful especially in vegetable gardening

5. How did you hear about the class?

- friend 6
- flyer in mail 8
- newspaper 4
- Seniors' Bulletin board
- from meeting of the committee

6. Are there other classes you would like to see offered by the Last Mountain Seniors' Education Committee?

- farm landscaping
- garden design
- lily ponds
- planting tree
- lawns
- landscaping detail for experienced gardeners - like building bridges, gazebos, fountains and ponds
- interior design/decorating (2)
- quilting
- fitting clothe
- human relationships
- leadership
- creative writing
- provincial writers (readings) - (several-

7. Can you suggest an instructor or lecturer you would like to bring to the Last Mountain area?

- Ken Beattie
- Stan Sheard

8. Other comments or concerns:

- Visual aids could have added a lot to this topic - posters, overhead and more useful items than a book passed around. Quite honestly, the session was a disappointment to me.

**EVALUATION SUMMARY**

**INTRODUCTION TO THE LITERATURE OF SASKATCHEWAN**

**INSTRUCTOR BRENDA RICHES AND CRAIG GRANT**

**LOCATION: GOVAN AND SEMANS SENIORS DROP-IN CENTRES**

**8 HOURS: APRIL 2, 9, 16 & 23, 1992**

**PARTICIPANTS: 14 PEOPLE (ALL 55 OR OVER)**

5 from Raymore
3 from Govan
4 from Semans
2 from Nokomis

1. What did you enjoy the most about the class?

- the speaking voice and the dramatic ability of Brenda Riches to put her work across.
- Brenda dealt with books I had read and I got re-acquainted with old friends.
- video presentations
- readings of stories and poems by Craig
- the great variety of peoples' thoughts and feelings
- The instructors were very interesting and created good discussion.
- Brenda is ideal for this type of evening.
- learning about our Saskatchewan writers
- the presenters
- The authors' readings were excellent. Also the comments and asides.
- variety of readings, Saskatchewan landscape description
- It made me think and challenged my mind.

2. What did you least enjoy about the class?

- owing to being a bit hard of hearing, I had trouble getting it together
- the gloom of the young poets

3. As a whole, the information presented in this course was:

__9_Very helpful ___2__Somewhat helpful

_____Not very helpful

4. The instructor was able to convey his/her knowledge:

___9__Very well __2___Adequately _____Not very well

5. The most important thing I learned in this class was:

- I am getting too old to learn much
- the intelligence of deep topics of very young children
- the different outlooks of the authors
- that I don't understand young writers' efforts
- the introduction to current poetry writings in Sask
- the great wealth of Sask. writers
- that we have many young writers in the province
- I need to read more poetry

6. Other courses or lecture topics I would like to see offered in the Last Mountain area:

- History of the Yukon and NWT
- T.C. Douglas
- Saskatchewan history and folklore
- making drapes and curtains
- any literary courses are welcome
- World religions
- the changing face of Europe

7. Other comments or concerns:

- Great stuff!
- Need to try this Saskatchewan literature program again, more promotion might help.
- This was a most enjoyable evening. An excellent speaker; knowledgeable and interesting. I'm glad I attended!
- Very good!

## OTHER AREAS OF INTEREST

[ 4 ] ASTRONOMY

[ 5 ] BIRDS AND BIRDWATCHING IN LAST MOUNTAIN

[ 10 ] CREATIVE WRITING

[ 8 ] COMPUTERS

[ 2 ] CONVERSATIONAL FRENCH

[ 3 ] FLORA AND FAUNA OF SASKATCHEWAN

[ 1 ] GREEK MYTHOLOGY

[ 1 ] GEOGRAPHY OF CHINA

[ 5 ] HISTORY OF THE YUKON AND THE NWT

[ 2 ] INTRODUCTION TO PSYCHOLOGY

[ 3 ] THE MIDDLE EAST

[ 2 ] MOVE TO THE MUSIC

[ 10 ] PRAIRIE LITERATURE

[ 5 ] PSYCHOLOGY OF AGING

[ 10 ] SASKATCHEWAN FOLKLORE

[ 3 ] T.C. DOUGLAS - PREACHER AND POLITICIAN

[ 6 ] WATERCOLOR PAINTING

[ 14 ] WOMEN IN PRAIRIE HISTORY

[ 2 ] WORLD RELIGIONS

OTHER SUGGESTIONS:

Ruth Blaser-Stories of older women; Oil painting; Art appreciation; Geology of Saskatchewan; Gertrude Story; Racial discrimination; Typing; Handicrafts; Woodworking; Discussion of the Farm Family Crises; Foster parenting course; Toastmasters; Beginner Drawing; Sask. Artist: Wynona Mulcaster; Jean Larmour.